

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 14, starting at line 22, please amend the paragraph, as follows:

~~Figure 6 is~~ Figure 6 is a flow diagram illustrating branch entry processing according to one embodiment of the present invention. When no entry is found in the ABTB 601, an entry is allocated in the SBTB at decode time 603. When an entry is found in the ABTB, a prediction is taken at 602. In case of a bogus branch 604, deallocation is performed at decode time 605, else the branch is predicted speculatively 606. The speculative prediction continuous 606, assuming the prediction is correct, for the subsequent entries until an actual entry is found in the ABTB 607. Once there is an actual entry in the ABTB, any corresponding entry in the SBTB is decoded in order to avoid duplication 608. If no actual entry is found in the ABTB, speculative prediction continues at 609. Any mispredicted branches and mispredicted targets are corrected at execute time, and entries are later executed 610. Finally, the executed branch instructions are retired 611. The branch history and PT are updated, but only branches that actually retire update the ABTB at 612. Since not all executed branches retire, branch update at Retire time eliminates corruption.